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SURVEY of Current Affairs

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General Election Result

The Conservative Party gained a majority of 144 over all other parties in the new House of Commons elected on 9 June.

The table below shows the number of seats obtained by each party. The number of seats in the new House of Commons is 650, compared with 635 at the last general election (see p 91).

Conservative	397
Labour	209
Liberal	17
Social Democratic	6
Scottish National	2
Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalist)	2
Official Unionist (Northern Ireland)	11
Democratic Unionist (Northern Ireland)	3
Ulster Popular Unionist (Northern Ireland)	1
Social Democratic and Labour (Northern Ireland)	1
Provisional Sinn Fein (Northern Ireland)[1]	1
TOTAL	650

The total number of voters entitled to vote in the election was some 42·2 million,[2] and 72·7 per cent of the electorate cast their votes, compared with 76 per cent in May 1979. The percentages of votes cast for the four main parties were as follows:

Conservative	42·4
Labour	27·6
Social Democratic-Liberal Alliance[3]	25·4
Others	4·6

All 650 seats were contested and there were 2,579 candidates compared with 2,571 in May 1979. The Conservative and Labour Parties each had 633 candidates and the Liberal and Social Democratic Parties between them 633 candidates, contesting all 633 seats in England, Scotland and Wales. The Scottish National Party contested all 72 seats in Scotland and Plaid Cymru contested all 38 seats in Wales. The Ecology Party contested 108 seats, the National Front 60 seats, the Communist Party 35 seats, and there was a large number of independent candidates.

[1]The Provisional Sinn Fein member for the Belfast West constituency of Northern Ireland has indicated that he will not take his seat in the House of Commons. Provisional Sinn Fein is the political wing of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA).

[2]The figures in this article are taken from *The Times*.

[3]The Liberal and Social Democratic Parties formed an alliance in 1981 to contest the general election (see p 317, 1981).

All 17 seats in Northern Ireland were contested by the Official Unionist Party and the Social Democratic and Labour Party; the Alliance Party contested 11.

The distribution of votes among the main parties was as follows:

Conservative	13,012,602
Labour	8,460,860
Social Democratic-Liberal Alliance	7,776,065
Scottish National	331,975
Plaid Cymru	125,309
Others	962,692
TOTAL	30,669,503

Ministerial Changes

Following the return to office of the Conservative Government in the general election, 12 new Cabinet appointments have been announced by the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. The number of Cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, is now 21.

The full list of new Cabinet appointments, with previous ministerial posts in brackets, is as follows:

Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords
Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP (former Secretary of State for the Home Department)

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas Development
Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP (former Chancellor of the Exchequer)

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt Hon Leon Brittan, QC, MP (former Chief Secretary to the Treasury)

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Nigel Lawson, MP (former Secretary of State for Energy)

Secretary of State for Energy
Rt Hon Peter Walker, MBE, MP (former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

Secretary of State for the Environment
Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP (former Secretary of State for Industry)

Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons
Rt Hon John Biffen, MP (former Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons)

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson, MP (former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General)

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Rt Hon The Lord Cockfield (former Secretary of State for Trade)

Secretary of State for Transport
Rt Hon Tom King, MP (former Secretary of State for the Environment)

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Rt Hon Michael Jopling, MP (former Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury – Government Chief Whip)

Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Rt Hon Peter Rees, QC, MP (former Minister for Trade)

A viscountcy is to be conferred on Mr William Whitelaw. This is the first hereditary peerage to be created since 1964.

Mr Cecil Parkinson's appointment combines the posts of Secretary of State for Trade and Secretary of State for Industry which were previously held separately. He will be in charge of a new Department of Trade and Industry (see p 205).

Mr Peter Rees has been appointed to the Privy Council.

The following Cabinet ministers have tendered their resignations; their former posts are given in parentheses:

Rt Hon Francis Pym, MC, MP
(Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas Development)

Rt Hon David Howell, MP
(Secretary of State for Transport)

The Cabinet

Following the new appointments, the composition of the Cabinet is as follows:

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP

Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords
Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP

Lord Chancellor
Rt Hon The Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, CH, FRS

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas Development
Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt Hon Leon Brittan, QC, MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Nigel Lawson, MP

Secretary of State for Education and Science
Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph, Bt, MP

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Rt Hon James Prior, MP

Secretary of State for Energy
Rt Hon Peter Walker, MBE, MP

Secretary of State for Defence
Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, MP

Secretary of State for Scotland
Rt Hon George Younger, TD, MP

Secretary of State for Wales
Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards, MP

Secretary of State for the Environment
Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP

Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons
Rt Hon John Biffen, MP

Secretary of State for Social Services
Rt Hon Norman Fowler, MP

Secretary of State for Employment
Rt Hon Norman Tebbit, MP

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson, MP

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Rt Hon The Lord Cockfield

Secretary of State for Transport
Rt Hon Tom King, MP

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Rt Hon Michael Jopling, MP

Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Rt Hon Peter Rees, QC, MP

Northern Ireland

Orders to extend the period of direct rule in Northern Ireland for a further 12 months and to renew for a further six months the emergency provisions to deal with terrorism have been passed in the House of Commons.

Extension of Direct Rule

Introducing the Order in the House of Commons on 12 May to extend the Northern Ireland Act 1974 for a further 12 months from July (*Hansard*, Vol 42, No 114, cols 938-78), the then Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr John Patten, said that the Government recognised that, for all its virtues, direct rule did not provide a settled and stable framework for the long term. The Northern Ireland Assembly had been set up in an attempt to respond to the special needs of the Province (see p 341, 1982) but in the mean time direct rule had to be maintained. The extension of direct rule and the renewal of emergency powers were important measures which underpinned stability and confidence in Northern Ireland.

Renewal of Emergency Provisions

The Order to renew the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978[1] for a further six

[1]The Act provides special powers for the security forces to arrest and detain suspected terrorists; for non-jury courts to try terrorist cases; and for the proscription of organisations involved in terrorism.

months from 25 July was also passed on 12 May (*Hansard*, Vol 42, No 114, cols 979-97). Mr Patten said that it was a matter of sorrow and regret that ten years after the passage of the first emergency provisions Act the House should be considering the renewal of its successor. The extension was necessary because violence and the threat of violence remained in Northern Ireland. If the security forces did not have the powers to carry out operations based on the provisions of the Act, they would be much less effective in combating and preventing terrorist crime. Mr Patten acknowledged that the Opposition was rightly concerned about the operation of the courts in Northern Ireland and said that the special provisions in the Act relating to the trials of terrorist-type offences were designed largely to overcome intimidation of both witnesses and jurors. In order to check that the powers in the existing legislation represented the correct balance between the rights of the individual and the need to protect those rights and the critically important need to provide the security forces and the courts with adequate powers to enable them to protect the public, the independent examination of the working of the Act announced last year (see p 221, 1982) had now started and its findings would be brought to the House.

Recent Legislation

The public Acts of Parliament passed between the end of March and the dissolution of Parliament on 13 May are listed below. Ten Acts were introduced by private members and are indicated by an asterisk.

Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1983. Amends the law concerning terminations of tenancies of agricultural holdings in Scotland and variation in rent for such holdings. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 46, ISBN 0 10 544683 1, HMSO, £1·75.

Appropriation Act 1983. Prescribes how expenditure is to be appropriated in order to finance specific public services. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 27, ISBN 0 10 542783 7, HMSO, £4·50.

British Fishing Boats Act 1983. Prohibits fishing for and trans-shipment of seafish by or from British fishing boats in specified areas unless the boats satisfy conditions regarding the nationality of members of the crew; and prohibits the landing of seafish in Britain from British fishing boats not satisfying these conditions. Royal Assent: 28.3.83. Ch 8, ISBN 0 10 540883 2, HMSO, £1·65.

**British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Amendment Act 1983.* Confers British citizenship, with effect from 1 January 1983, on those Falkland Islanders who did not acquire it under the British Nationality Act 1981. Royal Assent: 28.3.83. Ch 6, ISBN 0 10 540683 X, HMSO, £1·25.

British Shipbuilders Act 1983. Makes further provision for the functions and activities of British Shipbuilders with some measure of privatisation. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 15, ISBN 0 10 541583 9, HMSO, £1·30.

Civil Aviation (Eurocontrol) Act 1983. Enables Britain to ratify a protocol to the convention which created Eurocontrol (a European international agency dealing with air traffic control) and to ratify a multilateral agreement on *en route* navigation charges. Royal Assent: 11.4.83. Ch 11, ISBN 0 10 541183 3, HMSO, £1·75.

Consolidated Fund (No 2) Act 1983. Gives parliamentary authority for sums to be issued out of the Consolidated Fund to meet the Government's expenditure requirements. Royal Assent: 28.3.83. Ch 5, ISBN 0 10 540583 3, HMSO, 35p.

Conwy Tunnel (Supplementary Powers) Act 1983. Authorises the Secretary of State for Wales to acquire certain land and to construct and carry out certain works in connection with the construction, maintenance and improvement of a tunnel across the Conwy Estuary as part of a special road. Royal Assent: 28.3.83. Ch 7, ISBN 0 10 540783 6, HMSO, £2·55.

**Copyright (Amendment) Act 1983.* Amends section 21 of the Copyright Act 1956 to provide new penalties for offences relating to the infringement of copies of sound recordings and cinematograph films; and to provide for the issue and execution of search warrants in relation to such offences. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 42, ISBN 0 10 544283 6. HMSO, 75p.

**Coroners' Juries Act 1983.* Makes fresh provision for the qualifications of people eligible to serve on coroners' juries and provides criminal penalties for evasion of service on a coroner's jury. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 31, ISBN 0 10 543183 4, HMSO, 75p.

County Courts (Penalties for Contempt) Act 1983. Provides for county courts to be treated as superior courts for the purposes of section 14 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 45, ISBN 0 10 544583 5, HMSO, 35p.

Currency Act 1983. Changes the rules governing alterations in coinage and the fiduciary issue. Royal Assent: 28.3.83. Ch 9, ISBN 0 10 540983 9, HMSO, £1·65.

Dentists Act 1983. Amends the Dentists Act 1957. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 38, ISBN 0 10 543883 9, HMSO, £3·60.

**Diseases of Fish Act 1983.* Extends ministerial power to control disease to marine fish farms; provides for a register to be kept of all fish farms and for the keeping of records; and controls the taking as well as the depositing of shellfish. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 30, ISBN 0 10 543083 8, HMSO, £2·70.

Divorce Jurisdiction, Court Fees and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1983. Extends the jurisdiction of sheriffs in Scotland in relation to actions for divorce; and includes provisions for sufficiency of evidence in certain actions for divorce in Scotland, for lawyers' fees in relation to legal aid and assistance, and for the regulation of fees payable in the Scottish courts. Royal Assent: 11.4.83. Ch 12, ISBN 0 10 541283 X, HMSO, £1·75.

Education (Fees and Awards) Act 1983. Makes provision for the fees charged by universities and other institutions to overseas students and for the exclusion of such students from eligibility for certain discretionary awards. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 40, ISBN 0 10 544083 3, HMSO, 35p.

Energy Act 1983 (see pp 409–10, 1982). Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 25, ISBN 0 10 542583 4, HMSO, £3·60.

Finance Act 1983 (see p 205). Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 28, ISBN 0 10 542883 3, HMSO, £5·55.

Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983. Includes provisions relating to the financing of certain social services in England, Wales and Scotland; to the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work; to the remuneration and conditions of service of medical practitioners in the National Health Service and health service officers; to residential homes; to certain administrative bodies within the health service and to social security adjudications. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 41, ISBN 0 10 544183 X, HMSO, £6·40.

Importation of Milk Act 1983. Regulates the importation of milk to ensure that imports comply with health and hygiene requirements. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 37, ISBN 0 10 543783 2, HMSO, 75p.

International Transport Conventions Act 1983. Enables Britain to ratify a new consolidating convention concerning international carriage by rail signed at a conference in 1980. Royal Assent: 11.4.83. Ch 14, ISBN 0 10 541483 2, HMSO, £1·75.

**Level Crossings Act 1983.* Makes further provisions about level crossings. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 16, ISBN 0 10 541683 5, HMSO, 75p.

**Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983.* Empowers licensing justices in England and Wales to grant permissions to representatives of organisations not carried on for private gain to sell intoxicating liquor at their functions. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 24, ISBN 0 10 542483 8, HMSO, £1·30.

Litter Act 1983. Consolidates the Litter Acts of 1958 and 1971. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 35, ISBN 0 10 543583 X, HMSO, £2·25.

Marriage Act 1983. Enables marriages of housebound and detained people to be solemnised at their place of residence. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 32, ISBN 0 10 543283 0, HMSO, £2·70.

Matrimonial Homes Act 1983. Consolidates certain enactments relating to the rights of husbands and wives to occupy a dwelling-house that has been a matrimonial home. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 19, ISBN 0 10 541983 4, HMSO, £2·70.

Mental Health Act 1983. Consolidates the law relating to mentally disordered people. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 20, ISBN 0 10 542083 2, HMSO, £8·40.

Mental Health (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1983. Amends the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1960 and the Tenants' Rights Etc (Scotland) Act 1980 so as to extend to tenants of state hospital dwelling-houses the right to buy and the right to discount. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 39, ISBN 0 10 543983 5, HMSO, £5·10.

Merchant Shipping Act 1983. Enables the Secretary of State for Trade to make regulations for the establishment of a Small Ships Register. Royal Assent: 11.4.83. Ch 13, ISBN 0 10 541383 6, HMSO, £1·75.

Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Act 1983. Establishes a Development Commission in place of the Commissioners appointed under the Development and Road Improvement Funds Act 1909. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 29, ISBN 0 10 542983 X, HMSO, £2·70.

Mobile Homes Act 1983. Improves the protection given to residents of mobile homes. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 34, ISBN 0 10 543483 3, HMSO, £1·75.

**National Audit Act 1983* (see p 205). Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 44, ISBN 0 10 544483 9, HMSO, £2·25.

National Heritage Act 1983. Transfers responsibility for the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum, the Armouries and Royal Botanic Gardens from the Government to boards of trustees, and establishes a Commission for Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings for England (see p 380, 1981). Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 47, ISBN 0 10 544783 8, HMSO, £5·55.

Nuclear Material (Offences) Act 1983. Implements the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 18, ISBN 0 10 541883 8, HMSO, £1·75.

**Pet Animals Act 1951 (Amendment) Act 1983.* Prohibits the sale of pet animals in street markets. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 26, ISBN 0 10 542683 0, HMSO, 35p.

Pilotage Act 1983. Consolidates the main legislation on pilotage. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 21, ISBN 0 10 542183 9, HMSO, £4·50.

Plant Varieties Act 1983. Amends the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 17, ISBN 0 10 541783 1, HMSO, £1·30.

Ports (Reduction of Debt) Act 1983. Reduces the indebtedness of the Port of London Authority and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 22, ISBN 0 10 542283 5, HMSO, 35p.

**Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Act 1983.* Enables the Department of Transport to designate other countries' driving licences as exchangeable for ordinary car-driving licences in Great Britain. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 43, ISBN 0 10 544383 2, HMSO, 75p.

Social Security and Housing Benefits Act 1983. Changes the method of uprating social security and housing benefits from the forecast method in use since 1976 to the historic, or actual, method of annual uprating. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 36, ISBN 0 10 543683 6, HMSO, 75p.

**Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Act 1983.* Amends the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 to add solvent abuse to the conditions indicating the need for a compulsory care order. Royal Assent: 13.5.83. Ch 33, ISBN 0 10 543383 7, HMSO, 35p.

Transport Act 1983 (see pp 407-9, 1982). Royal Assent: 28.3.83. Ch 10, ISBN 0 10 541083 7, HMSO, £1·65.

Water Act 1983 (see pp 410-12, 1982). Royal Assent: 9.5.83. Ch 23, ISBN 0 10 542383 1, HMSO, £3·15.

Uncompleted Legislation

The effect of prorogation is immediately to terminate all business (with minor exceptions) until Parliament is again assembled. This means that any uncompleted Bills must be reintroduced in the first session of the new Parliament, unless it is decided that they should be abandoned. The following Public Bills had received a second reading by 13 May. Bills which were introduced by private members are indicated by an asterisk.

Car Tax

*Copyright Amendment (No 2)

*Criminal Trespass on Residential Premises

Data Protection (see pp 151-3)

*European Assembly Elections (Amendment)

*Gaming (Amendment)

*Housing (Houses in Multiple Occupation)

Housing and Building Control (see pp 31-2)

*Juries (Amendment)

*Juries (Disqualification)

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

*Lotteries (Amendment)

Medical

*Parochial Charities (Neighbourhood Trust)

Police and Criminal Evidence (see p 419, 1982)

*Prohibition of Female Circumcision

*Public Records (Amendment)

Telecommunications (see p 404, 1982)

*Truck Acts (Repeal)

Value Added Tax

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Namibia

The British Government has reiterated its commitment to the independence of Namibia and the achievement of a settlement designed to strengthen peace and security in Southern Africa and to foster economic development in the region. The issue was debated by the United Nations Security Council, which on 31 May unanimously adopted a resolution condemning South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia and calling upon it to make a firm commitment to Namibian independence and to co-operate fully with the United Nations Secretary-General to that end.

Background

Britain is a member of the Western Contact Group (the other members being Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States), which in February 1978 put forward proposals that formed the basis of the United Nations plan for a settlement, laid out in Security Council resolution 435 (see pp 350-2, 1978), and has since played a major part in efforts to achieve its implementation (see pp 260-2, 1981). Following the failure of the pre-implementation meeting in Geneva in January 1981 (see pp 39-40, 1981) to reach agreement the members of the Contact Group undertook a further round of international consultations during 1981 and the group secured broad agreement with the front-line states (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and, since 1980, Zimbabwe), the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and the South African Government on a constitutional framework which would provide confidence in Namibia's political future.

In May 1982 foreign ministers of the group decided to set in hand a further mission which visited several African countries in June. This was followed by informal consultations in New York in July, with parallel discussions with the South Africans in Washington. In a letter to the Secretary-General on 12 July 1982 the Contact Group recorded the agreement of all the parties to its constitutional principles concerning an independent Namibia. However, at the same time South Africa made it clear that no independence plan could be implemented in Namibia without a fixed and definite agreement that Cuban troops would withdraw from Angola.[1]

Substantial progress was also made in the consultations on other outstanding issues, notably the composition and deployment of the military component of the mixed military and civilian United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) which would monitor observance of a cease-fire, supervise the elections and prevent any interference in the electoral process.

British Views

Pointing out that the British Government and its partners in the Contact Group had consistently recognised the urgent need for a negotiated settlement, the British Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Sir John Thomson, told the Security Council on 23 May that Britain fully agreed with the Secretary-General on the importance of a settlement and the urgent need to strengthen efforts to bring about the early independence of Namibia.

Sir John recalled that the Contact Group, together with the front-line states and SWAPO, had reported its progress to the Secretary-General in September 1982. The cornerstone of the group's approach was, as ever, its April 1978 proposal for a settlement, adopted by the Security Council in resolution 435, which had been accepted by all parties and stood as the basis for an internationally recognised settlement.

The group's principles concerning the constituent assembly and the constitution of an independent Namibia laid down unambiguously the eligibility of every Namibian to participate in elections without discrimination or fear of intimi-

[1]Cuban troops, at present numbering an estimated 20,000, have been in Angola since the civil war in the months before its independence in November 1975. A joint Angolan-Cuban statement in February 1982 indicated that their withdrawal would be considered after settlement of the Namibian problem and after the withdrawal of South African troops south of the Orange River, Namibia's southern border. Britain believes that, while an agreement on Cuban withdrawal is not covered by the United Nations plan and is not a pre-condition for a Namibia settlement, an accommodation on this issue would help clinch a settlement and contribute towards economic and political stability in the region.

dation, to vote in secret and to be guaranteed full freedom of speech, assembly, movement and the press. All political parties were to have a full and fair opportunity to organise and to participate in the electoral process, and the electoral system would seek to ensure fair representation in the constituent assembly of different parties which gained substantial support in the election. Namibia was to be a unitary, sovereign and democratic state, the executive and legislative branches of its Government being constituted by periodic and genuine elections, and there would be a declaration of fundamental rights consistent with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Provision was to be made for the balanced structuring of the public service, the police and the defence services, and for the establishment of elected councils for local or regional administration.

In accepting the principles concerning the constituent assembly and the constitution of an independent Namibia, Sir John said that the parties had committed themselves to a future for Namibia in which all the people of the territory could have confidence. As far as the United Nations, and indeed the British Government, were concerned, the only outstanding issues were the choice of electoral system and the settlement of some final problems relating to UNTAG and its composition. Britain wanted to see a climate created in which implementation could take place as soon as possible and with the certainty of success. Sir John added: 'We appreciate the constructive and flexible attitude of the parties, in particular that of our African partners, which has made possible substantial progress towards the implementation of resolution 435. We reiterate our commitment to that goal and to the achievement of a settlement which would strengthen peace and security and foster economic development in the region. We share the concern that factors relating to the regional situation in Southern Africa – which are, however, outside the scope of the Contact Group's mandate – have not yet permitted implementation of the United Nations plan.'

Urging the Security Council to find a way to make the final leap forward, Sir John said that the people of Namibia had waited too long for their freedom and independence. It was time also that the people of Angola, who had undergone and were still facing hardship, were able to live in peace, free from foreign occupation, from external interference and from acts of violence from any quarter. 'The problems of the region cannot be solved by violence. There must be a solution in Namibia which assures the security of all states in the region, and the security requirements of Angola and of the Angolan Government must be fully met in any settlement.' In this context, Britain was deeply concerned at the continuing presence on Angolan territory of elements of the armed forces of South Africa. It knew that the parties were in direct contact about these problems, and it hoped that these talks would lead to a successful outcome, since the United Nations plan for Namibia could not be implemented without the withdrawal of these South African forces.

Sir John said the joint efforts of the front-line states and the Contact Group had brought them tantalisingly close to success. He could not believe that anyone who was genuinely concerned for the people of Southern Africa would argue that the progress that had been made should be abandoned. Continued occupation of Namibia – in defiance of the international community and at great cost in political, human and economic terms – could not serve the best interests of South Africa. The group did not accept South Africa's occupation of Namibia as lawful and had repeatedly said so. But South Africa was in possession and not surprisingly had various apprehensions. It was important to convince not only the South Africans but also all sections of opinion within Namibia that the settlement terms were equitable and just and would be administered impartially, and the group was demonstrating scrupulous fairness in its negotiations.

There were, said Sir John, two lessons that Britain had learned from the settlement in Zimbabwe and which he believed were applicable to Namibia. The first was that it had been possible, by being both determined and fair, to persuade through negotiation those who had exercised power unlawfully in Southern Rhodesia to submit voluntarily to an election under universal suffrage, thus demonstrating that this was an attainable objective and not an impracticable notion. Secondly, the Lancaster House settlement (see pp 364-70, 1979, and 67-8, 1980) could not have been implemented without the co-operation and assistance of South Africa. 'It is to the credit of the South African Government that it helped to implement that settlement. To implement the Namibian settlement, the United Nations will similarly require the co-operation and physical assistance of the South African Government.'

Noting that at the time of independence Namibia would face a difficult economic transition, Sir John said that while independence had been the main goal, economic development was an important objective which the Contact Group had borne in mind. Again, as in the case of Zimbabwe, Britain hoped to assist the new nation in this respect. Its long experience of economic and technical co-operation could help to promote Namibia's long-term economic and social development, and it would be happy to work with other governments and international organisations in such programmes.

In conclusion, Sir John said the basis for a negotiated settlement in Namibia existed and was widely accepted. 'The right to self-determination is recognised by all. The responsibility of the United Nations is clearly established. We have a viable plan for implementation of that responsibility .... The Government of the United Kingdom therefore hopes that the message will go out from this Council meeting that there is urgent, legitimate and well-founded pressure from all sides for implementation of the United Nations plan. We trust that the Council will stress that an immediate peaceful settlement is unquestionably in the best interests of all the people of Namibia and of the countries bordering Namibia, including South Africa.'

Commonwealth Development Corporation

The annual report[1] of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), published in May, shows that the Corporation's new commitments in productive enterprises in developing countries totalled some £103 million in 1982, bringing its total investment commitment at the end of the year to nearly £704 million. Of the total committed £223 million was for basic development, including power and water, housing finance and transport; £367·8 million for primary production and processing; and £113 million for industry and commerce. The Corporation's investments by region are shown in the table (see below).

Established in 1948, the Corporation is a statutory body which invests in the development of resources, material and human, choosing its projects principally for their development value to the country concerned. At the same time, it operates on commercial lines so as to provide a reasonable rate of return on the money invested, and is required to pay its way taking one year with another. (Since 1955, about one-third of its investments have been financed from self-generated surpluses.)

The Corporation's main source of funds is allocations from the British Government's aid programme. Since 1969 it has been empowered to operate in non-Commonwealth as well as Commonwealth countries. At present it operates in 50 countries and is involved in some 250 projects whose combined long-term capital resources amount to an estimated £2,500 million, of which the Corporation has provided some £500 million. The projects embrace, among other things, over 607,000 hectares in 30 countries under commercial crops, forestry or being grazed by cattle. Another 400,000 hectares are farmed by some 400,000 smallholders growing cash and food crops.

New Commitments

In 1982 the main emphasis of new investment commitments was placed upon the poorer group of countries, many of which are unable to attract private capital. Over half the value of the 34 new commitments was devoted to renewable natural resources projects, three-quarters going to the poorer countries. Spread over 20 countries in seven regions, they covered such projects as the growing and processing of bananas, citrus, cocoa, oil palms, rubber, tea, sugar and food crops; beef and dairy cattle; the production of textiles, cement, and metal manufactures; the distribution of natural gas; and the generation of electricity from geothermal energy and coal.

Among the new projects was the launching of a pan-African housing finance institution under the auspices of the African Development Bank and supported by 25 African Governments and institutions. The Corporation's first new commitment in Zimbabwe since independence is a £10 million loan to extend the Hwange Power Station, the project including the installation of two generator units, two coal-fired steam boilers, and power transmission lines. Other investments in Africa included finance for hotel development in Seychelles and Malawi, textile manufacture in Malawi, electricity supply in Botswana, and for rubber and oil palm plantations in Cameroon.

For the first time the Corporation is making an investment in Ecuador in a major oil palm project; nurseries have been established, access roads built, and trees planted. New commitments in the Caribbean included finance for the rehabilitation and expansion of the sugar and citrus industries in Belize and the expansion of banana production in Jamaica.

In Asia the Corporation committed £15·6 million towards a nucleus estate and smallholder project in Indonesia, this forming part of the Indonesian Government's smallholder development programme. Other commitments included £6·4 million for an oil palm estate in the Philippines, and £15 million to assist the economic utilisation of natural gas resources in Thailand and thereby enable significant savings in oil imports and, as a charcoal substitute, the conservation of forest reserves. In the Pacific a new housing project was agreed for the Solomon Islands and supplementary investments approved in Papua New Guinea for an oil palm project and a refinery to process molasses.

The Corporation is also looking at possibilities for investment in the production of staple food crops; the report suggests that effective contributions could be made indirectly by investment in projects such as the supply of improved seed. Two projects of this kind exist in Malawi and Tanzania.

CDC Investments and Outstanding Commitments by Region at end-1982

£ million

Region	Invested	Outstanding commitment
Caribbean	56·1	45·0
Asia	111·4	55·2
Pacific Islands	50·1	27·4
East Africa	74·2	28·5
Central Africa	79·5	36·0
Southern Africa	59·1	10·0
West Africa	33·9	34·5
Other Areas	2·9	–
Total	467·2	236·6

Local Ownership

The report says that although the Corporation remains ready to dispose of its successful developments to local interests at a fair price, there has been a marked slowing-down in the transfer of marketable shares, due largely to economic conditions and reduced purchasing power within

[1] *Commonwealth Development Corporation*: Report and Accounts 1982. HMSO, £4·50. ISBN 0 903799 15 4.

the developing countries. Negotiations were, however, concluded for the sale to the Government of Malaysia of shareholdings in the Malaysia Building Society Bhd and for the sale to the Grenada Government of the Corporation's shares in Grenada Electricity Services Ltd.

The Crown Agents

Information about the work of the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations in 1982 is contained in the Chairman's Review and Accounts published in May.[1]

The Agents, a statutory corporation, provide financial, professional and commercial services for almost 100 governments and over 300 public authorities and international bodies. These include procurement and engineering, money management and investment, recruitment of staff and other personnel services, consultancy and training services, shipping and insurance, negotiating contracts for the production and supply of currency and stamps and their sales for collectors, and help in administering Britain's bilateral aid to developing countries. They have also recently become involved in the bilateral aid programmes of other countries as well as in negotiations with multilateral aid agencies, and this work is now a rapidly growing component of their business.

Review of Activities in 1982

Examples of services in 1982 included the signing of a number of major contracts and agreements for projects covering agriculture, fisheries, power generation, rural development, water supply and irrigation in various African countries; assistance with the establishment of a central stores supply system in Kenya, an agricultural tools supply service to increase food production in Mozambique, and an agricultural supplies programme in Uganda. Considerable efforts were concentrated on rehabilitation in the Falkland Islands following the 1982 war, the Agents handling over 200 orders worth £7·23 million covering prefabricated houses and a wide range of equipment. In December a unit was dispatched to the Islands to carry out road rehabilitation and reconstruction, while a special issue of surcharged stamps was arranged for the Falkland Islands Appeal which raised £70,000.

The Agents' new ability to provide a range of equipment from various suppliers together, where necessary, with Export Credits Guarantee Department cover, produced substantial business from Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius and Uganda.

In Nepal, management of a three-year telecommunications project was completed with the commissioning of an earth satellite station, while other communications projects were carried out in Solomon Islands and Kiribati. Inspection work was carried out on 516 railway wagons for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, assistance was given with the purchase and delivery of substantial quantities of railway equipment for Bangladesh, and consultancy advice was provided on signalling for Bangladesh Railways.

Work undertaken by the new regional inspecting engineer based in Singapore included inspection of electrical equipment, family-planning materials, and irrigation and water equipment in India, Japan, Korea and Nepal. A British-made light harbour tug was supplied to a client in Brunei and an order was placed in Hong Kong for a coastal tug for the Brunei Marine Department. The Agents also obtained two pilot boats for a new client, the Papua New Guinea Harbour Board. Also in Papua New Guinea, the Agents advised on a management information system for the Department of Works and Supply, and have been awarded a project management assignment regarding maintenance of the Highlands highway. In Fiji the Agents were providing a project-planning team in the Central Planning Office, while in Nepal their Agricultural Services Unit, a section of the newly formed Technical Directorate, was helping to establish a veterinary laboratory, funded by the Asian Development Bank.

In Jamaica, the British Government, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank funded orders placed through the Agents for fertiliser, public works equipment and cement plant reconstruction. Road construction work funded by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) continued in Belize while similar work, financed by the European Community, was completed in Saint Lucia and a new contract commenced there to assist road rehabilitation.

In the Middle East, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen were among the Agents' main sources of business, and their involvement in British aid programmes elsewhere in the region was substantial. In the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen the Agents' contribution to the Aden-Taiz road construction ended, work on the Mukalla-Wadi Hadramawt project was almost completed, and other work was gained ranging from air conditioning at the Central Bank to the provision of equipment for a major street-lighting system for the Municipality of Aden. The Agents are to be involved in supply arrangements for a tsetse fly control project in Somalia, co-financed by the ODA and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

The Crown Agents' stamp department designed and produced, among other issues, a 17-country omnibus set celebrating the twenty-first birthday of the Princess of Wales.

During 1982 the Crown Agents administered, on behalf of the ODA, 206 British aid loans and grants totalling £1,830 million; of these, 193 were managed by them on behalf of recipients of British aid. Investment funds handled for clients in international financial markets amounted to the equivalent of some £4,650 million.

[For further information see COI reference paper *The Crown Agents*, No 66/83.]

[1]Available free from the Crown Agents, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD.

Shorter Note

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Britain is to give some $143·26 million to the Inter-American Development Bank and a further $24·3 million to the Bank's concessional Fund for Special Operations, for commitments from 1982 to the end of 1986. This is part of a total replenishment of some $15,700 million which, together with accompanying measures, will allow the Bank's convertible lending to grow by nearly 14 per cent a year to the end of 1986.

Giving details of this sixth replenishment of the Bank, in a parliamentary reply on 17 March, the Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Timothy Raison, said that it would allow a total planned lending programme by the Bank in all currencies of just over $14,000 million. New convertible contributions to the Fund for Special Operations would amount to just over $700 million, and the Fund's lending would be further concentrated upon the poorest countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. These countries would also benefit from a new intermediate financing facility, provided by transfers from the reserves and reflows to the Fund. This facility would subsidise interest upon some £800 million of ordinary Bank lending. The Bank, said Mr Raison, would give priority in its lending to agriculture and rural development, urban improvement and energy, and would aim to ensure that half of its lending programme was oriented directly to benefiting low-income groups, primarily through projects stressing the creation of productive employment.

Mr Raison said that, subject to parliamentary approval, Britain would subscribe to its full allocation of 11,876 new shares with a value calculated by the Bank at $143·26 million of which 4·5 per cent would be paid in; and would contribute $24·3 million to the Fund, divided, like that of other non-regional members, into a basic contribution of $10·6 million, related to its relative share in the Bank's capital stock, and a supplemental contribution of $13·7 million, representing Britain's part of a collective supplementary effort by the non-regional members.

The Inter-American Development Bank is a regional development bank established in 1959 with the aim of promoting the development of member countries through financial assistance and technical co-operation. Membership of the Bank, at first restricted to members of the Organisation of American States, was extended in 1972 to Canada, and in 1976 was further extended to allow a group of 12, mainly European, countries, including Britain, to join as 'non-regional' members. Since then, more countries have been admitted and the current total membership is 41. Under the Bank's fifth replenishment in 1978 Britain contributed $119 million to its capital stock, of which $9 million was paid in and $71 million allocated to the Fund for Special Operations.

Source: *Hansard*, Vol 39, No 81, written answers, cols 231-2.

Williamsburg Economic Summit

Progress made in reducing inflation and interest rates as well as improvements in productivity were among the signs of recovery noted by the leaders of the seven major industrialised countries at their economic summit at Williamsburg, United States, from 28 to 30 May. Appreciating the need for concerted action, the participants reached agreement in ten specific areas. They also issued a statement on defence and disarmament.

The declaration issued at the end of the summit, attended by the heads of State and Government of Britain, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, together with representatives of the European Community, said that the recession had put their societies 'through a severe test' but they had proved resilient. 'Significant success' had been achieved in reducing inflation and interest rates, improvements in productivity had taken place and there were now clear signs of recovery. Nevertheless, the industrialised democracies had to ensure the continuation of recovery in order to reverse a decade of cumulative inflation and to reduce unemployment. 'We must all focus on achieving and maintaining lower inflation, and reducing interest rates from their present too-high levels. We renew our commitment to reduce structural budget deficits, in particular, by limiting the growth of expenditures.'

Policies for Recovery

The participants recognised the need to act together in carrying out balanced policies that took account of and exploited the relationship between growth, trade and finance in order that recovery might spread to all countries, both developed and developing. In pursuit of these objectives, agreement in ten main areas was reached:

1 The seven Governments would follow monetary and budgetary policies conducive to lower inflation and interest rates, higher productive investment and greater employment opportunities, particularly for the young.

2 The process of consultation, initiated at the 1982 Versailles summit (see pp 201-3, 1982), would be enhanced to promote convergence of performance in the various economies and greater stability of exchange rates (see below). While retaining freedom to operate independently, the participants expressed their willingness to undertake co-ordinated intervention in exchange markets when appropriate.

3 The participants committed themselves to stop the spread of protectionism and, as recovery proceeded, to reverse it by dismantling trade barriers. They would actively pursue current initiatives in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, including trade in services and in high technology products, and would work to achieve further trade liberalisation within GATT particularly with regard to developing countries. Discussions on a new GATT negotiating round would continue.

4 Concern was expressed about the international financial situation, especially the debt burden of many developing countries. The leaders agreed to a strategy based on effective adjustment and development policies by debtor nations, adequate private and official financing, more open markets and worldwide economic recovery. They would seek early ratification of the increase in resources for the General Arrangements to Borrow.[1] They were in favour of closer co-operation and timely sharing of information among countries and the international institutions, particularly the IMF, World Bank and GATT.

5 The participants had invited ministers of finance, in consultation with the Managing Director of the IMF, to define the conditions for improving the IMF and to consider the part which might eventually be played in this process by a high-level international monetary conference.

6 Particular importance would be attached to the recovery of the developing countries, which had suffered very heavily from the recession. Special attention would be given to the flow of resources, particularly official development assistance, to poorer countries, both bilaterally and through the international institutions. The participants reaffirmed their commitments to agreed funding levels for the International Development Association and welcomed the frankness of dialogue shown by the developing countries at recent

[1]Under the General Arrangements to Borrow, the Group of Ten (leading industrialised countries) provides the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the usable currencies needed for large drawings if its own stock proves inadequate.

conferences – of the non-aligned movement in New Delhi and of the Group of 77[1] in Buenos Aires. They shared these countries' 'commitment to engage with understanding and co-operation in the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development'.

7 The leaders were agreed on the need to encourage the development of advanced technology and the public acceptance of its role in promoting growth, employment and trade. They had noted with approval the report of the working group on technology, growth and employment set up at the 1982 Versailles summit (see p 202, 1982) and commended the progress made in the 18 co-operative projects discussed in the report.

8 The participants shared the view that less volatility in oil prices was desirable. They felt that the fall in oil prices did not diminish the importance and urgency of energy conservation, the development of alternative energy sources, the strengthening of contacts between oil-exporting and importing countries and the encouragement of energy production in developing countries.

9 The leaders expressed the view that East-West economic relations should be compatible with their countries' security interests. They noted with approval the work of the multilateral organisations that had recently analysed key aspects of these relations and encouraged their continuation.

10 Agreement was reached to strengthen co-operation in protection of the environment, in improved use of natural resources and in health research.

The participants felt that their discussions had given them 'new confidence in the prospects for a recovery'. They had strengthened their 'resolve to deal co-operatively with continuing problems so as to promote a sound and sustainable recovery, bringing new jobs and a better way of life for the people of our own countries and of the world'. The 1984 summit would take place in Britain.

Additional Statements

In addition to the main declaration, there appeared an annex on the need for strengthening economic co-operation and a statement on defence and disarmament; these are summarised below.

Growth and Stability

Having examined in the light of experience the agreement made at Versailles in 1982 to ensure greater monetary stability in the world economy, the leaders reaffirmed the objectives of non-inflationary growth of income and employment together with the promotion of exchange market stability through policies aimed at greater convergence of economic performance.

Multilateral co-operation with the IMF in its surveillance activities, in accordance with the procedure agreed at Versailles (see p 203), would be reinforced in two ways. First, there would be a focusing on short-term policy actions leading to convergence of economic conditions in the medium term. Secondly, close attention would be paid to certain monetary and financial issues. In particular, monetary policy would be aimed at the non-inflationary growth of monetary aggregates and the appropriate course for interest rates; fiscal policy would be directed towards a reduction in structural budget deficits; exchange rate policy would be designed to achieve greater stability in markets; and employment policies would be focused on improved labour mobility, problems of youth unemployment and the promotion of structural adjustment.

Defence and Disarmament

On defence and disarmament, the seven heads of State and Government regarded their first duty to be the defence of freedom and justice on which their democracies were based. To this end, they would 'maintain sufficient military strength to deter any attack, to counter any threat and to ensure the peace. Our arms will never be used except in response to aggression.'

The leaders wished to achieve lower levels of arms through serious negotiations. They were ready to work with the Soviet Union to this purpose and invited the Soviet Union to work with them. With regard to intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in particular (see pp 125-6), they called upon the Soviet Union to contribute to the success of the negotiations.

They also expressed a strong wish that a balanced INF agreement be reached shortly. If so, the negotiations would determine the level of deployment, but if it did not occur arrangements would go ahead for the planned deployment of United States systems in Europe at the end of 1983.

The leaders pledged their nations to continue 'thorough and intensive' consultations on arms reductions. The security of their countries was indivisible and had to be approached globally. They warned that attempts to avoid serious negotiation by seeking to influence public opinion would fail.

[1]The name given to a group of developing countries, now about 120, which act together to put forward policies on development.

Overseas Direct Investment

British companies' net direct investment overseas in 1982 was estimated at over £2,600 million (according to provisional figures) compared with direct investment in Britain from overseas of £1,150 million. Net earnings on outward investment were over £3,000 million and on inward investment £2,160 million. More detailed figures for 1981 show outward investment of £5,100 million compared with inward investment of £900 million.

These findings are from the Department of Trade's inquiry into annual flows of British direct invest-

Table 1

Net Direct Overseas Investment and Earnings

£ million

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982*
Outward direct investment overseas						
Net investment	1,885	2,710	2,777	3,430	5,104	2,634
Net earnings	2,293	2,347	2,815	2,920	3,606	3,031
Inward direct investment in Britain						
Net investment	1,326	1,261	1,793	2,573	902	1,147
Net earnings	1,432	1,527	2,149	1,989	2,075	2,163

*Provisional.

Table 2

Net Outward Direct Investment Overseas Analysed by Area

£ million

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Western Europe	**569·2**	**853·5**	**124·8**	**587·0**	**944·0**
European Community	381·6	579·9	25·3	478·3	805·8
Belgium and Luxembourg	69·8	38·4	32·4	17·3	4·4
Denmark	12·8	14·9	1·8	21·5	2·8
France	98·0	69·8	83·0	112·5	120·2
Federal Republic of Germany	154·4	111·7	22·0	375·7	257·6
Irish Republic	59·4	168·7	56·4	87·6	85·0
Italy	42·5	47·1	50·0	31·1	64·2
Netherlands	−55·2	129·3	−220·3	−167·4	271·7
European Free Trade Area*	149·9	215·5	69·6	72·2	88·8
Austria	29·8	17·8	*na*	−6·1	3·9
Finland	1·2	*na*	9·5	2·0	4·2
Norway	4·6	2·7	*na*	*na*	5·1
Portugal	8·4	5·8	10·3	10·6	19·7
Sweden	35·6	13·3	18·7	1·1	4·7
Switzerland	70·2	171·9	25·9	69·9	51·1
Other Western Europe	37·7	58·0	29·9	36·5	49·5
North America	**582·7**	**1,099·8**	**1,802·3**	**1,889·0**	**2,590·5**
Canada	129·3	138·1	203·6	111·5	203·8
United States	453·4	961·7	1,598·7	1,777·5	2,386·7
Other developed countries	**333·6**	**316·1**	**260·0**	**418·9**	**701·7**
Australia	194·7	171·4	199·9	163·0	341·3
Japan	17·0	32·0	30·8	6·6	15·1
New Zealand	15·4	27·2	19·6	30·9	39·5
South Africa	106·6	85·5	9·8	218·4	305·8
Rest of the world	**399·3**	**440·1**	**589·7**	**535·2**	**867·3**
Africa	250·0	133·0	137·3	153·6	243·9
Middle East	18·9	64·6	46·9	19·4	9·0
Other Asia	162·0	24·5	120·4	110·2	272·2
Caribbean, Central and South America	−48·2	207·8	286·7	248·3	318·2
Other	16·6	10·4	−1·6	3·6	24·0
World	**1,884·8**	**2,709·7**	**2,776·7**	**3,430·0**	**5,103·6**
Commonwealth	489·9	621·7	822·8	661·7	1,158·0
Developing countries	437·0	498·1	619·4	571·5	916·8
Oil-exporting countries†	177·4	152·1	70·9	93·0	110·4

*Including Iceland.
†Gulf states, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
na = not available.

Table 3

Net Earnings from Outward Direct Investment Overseas Analysed by Area

£ million

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Western Europe	**535·0**	**602·4**	**652·3**	**548·6**	**640·4**
European Community	375·0	447·6	508·9	397·3	446·5
Belgium and Luxembourg	64·1	67·7	56·2	44·8	39·9
Denmark	11·6	16·1	10·9	14·5	11·3
France	30·7	40·9	73·5	67·4	64·0
Federal Republic of Germany	122·0	154·0	169·3	132·3	116·9
Irish Republic	64·6	86·0	96·4	81·7	108·3
Italy	29·2	40·4	44·6	46·1	37·2
Netherlands	52·7	42·6	57·9	10·6	68·8
European Free Trade Area*	133·1	136·0	117·2	122·0	137·0
Austria	27·3	27·0	10·7	10·9	11·1
Finland	3·4	5·1	7·0	4·9	5·3
Norway	3·8	3·4	*na*	*na*	5·9
Portugal	9·1	*na*	13·4	16·6	17·3
Sweden	14·3	13·0	13·7	17·7	12·6
Switzerland	75·1	81·2	68·7	69·4	84·9
Other Western Europe	27·0	18·8	26·2	29·3	56·9
North America	**515·2**	**600·5**	**756·8**	**755·1**	**996·0**
Canada	155·8	161·2	199·6	188·5	187·9
United States	359·5	439·3	557·2	566·6	808·1
Other developed countries	**509·5**	**521·3**	**663·4**	**749·3**	**843·4**
Australia	234·2	226·2	259·2	272·6	319·4
Japan	21·4	30·4	37·2	20·9	18·0
New Zealand	29·6	33·4	32·2	32·7	38·4
South Africa	224·4	231·4	334·7	423·1	467·5
Rest of the world	**733·2**	**622·3**	**742·7**	**866·9**	**1,125·8**
Africa	207·9	183·8	203·6	261·9	266·1
Middle East	70·2	55·4	70·1	60·8	75·1
Other Asia	265·3	220·2	285·5	310·6	387·4
Caribbean, Central and South America	145·1	143·5	170·5	220·5	368·4
Other	44·6	19·3	13·0	13·1	28·7
World	**2,293·0**	**2,346·5**	**2,815·2**	**2,920·0**	**3,605·6**
Commonwealth	912·7	838·3	979·0	1,077·2	1,242·6
Developing countries	760·2	640·8	768·6	896·1	1,182·7
Oil-exporting countries†	194·7	145·4	156·3	160·5	192·6

*Including Iceland.
†Gulf states, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
na = not available.

ment overseas[1] and inward direct investment in Britain, published in the 13 May issue of *British business*. Oil companies are excluded from the inquiry. As only provisional figures are available for 1982, this article deals with the more detailed analysis for 1981.

Outward Net Direct Investment

Net overseas direct investment by British companies rose rapidly from the mid-1970s. Inflation was responsible for much of the increase; the lack of suitable price indices makes it difficult to measure the extent although a rough indication of the underlying trend in real terms can be obtained by looking at overseas investment in relation to gross domestic product (GDP). Net overseas direct investment as a proportion of GDP at market prices rose from 0·8 per cent in the early 1960s to 1·2 per cent in 1969. It remained around this level for the next three years before increasing to 2·2 per cent in 1973. The ratio fell back with the decline in economic activity in the major economies, recovering to 1·7 per cent in 1976. It stayed near this level until 1981, when it increased sharply to 2·2 per cent, partly because of a rise in investment and partly due to a fall in real GDP. The increase in investment up to 1973 took place in all the main areas, with that in the United States and the European Community being particularly notable. Since 1978 growth has been

[1]Direct investment overseas consists of long- and short-term funds given by an investor in one country to overseas affiliates (subsidiaries, associates and branches) in the form of share capital, loans, trade credit and retained profits. It is measured net after deducting loans made by the affiliates to their direct investors.

Table 4

Net Inward Direct Investment in Britain Analysed by Area

£ million

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Western Europe	**439·3**	**410·7**	**503·8**	**383·0**	**361·7**
European Community	267·2	290·8	252·3	155·1	67·0
Belgium and Luxembourg	46·4	41·3	23·4	15·1	−170·2
Denmark	−0·2	15·1	33·3	13·2	13·5
France	89·2	151·2	47·7	51·3	48·8
Federal Republic of Germany	37·5	60·2	66·6	34·3	156·4
Irish Republic	23·9	22·5	−11·3	19·4	2·3
Italy	12·9	−5·3	5·2	−10·8	−2·3
Netherlands	57·5	5·8	87·4	32·8	18·5
European Free Trade Area	169·7	120·0	249·6	225·5	292·7
Austria	3·9	−2·0	3·4	−1·0	1·2
Finland	12·0	23·9	24·3	3·3	51·6
Norway	−1·5	−3·3	15·1	23·8	21·3
Portugal	0·5	0·5	2·0	1·5	–
Sweden	53·1	0·9	39·1	72·3	90·3
Switzerland	101·6	99·9	165·3	125·5	128·4
Other Western Europe	2·3	–	1·9	2·4	2·0
North America	**694·7**	**846·2**	**1,117·7**	**1,785·2**	**46·7**
Canada	59·0	37·3	119·5	73·4	−0·3
United States	635·7	808·9	998·1	1,711·7	47·1
Other developed countries	**154·7**	**1·8**	**54·4**	**187·8**	**285·2**
Australia	12·6	−7·5	63·8	71·3	−37·5
Japan	98·9	−23·9	45·1	24·5	224·2
New Zealand	0·3	4·1	4·6	−3·7	12·9
South Africa	42·9	29·1	−59·1	95·7	85·5
Rest of the world	**37·4**	**2·4**	**117·4**	**217·3**	**208·1**
Asia	7·8	22·8	59·8	31·3	194·4
Caribbean, Central and South America	27·9	−18·0	6·5	196·9	2·1
Other	1·7	−2·4	51·0	−10·9	11·5
World	**1,326·0**	**1,261·1**	**1,793·2**	**2,573·2**	**901·7**

concentrated in the United States, partly because of its relatively high level of economic activity. The United States accounted for nearly half the total of outward direct investment in the period 1979-81 compared with less than one-tenth in the early 1960s. Investment in the European Community grew strong in the late 1960s, reaching a peak of 0·7 per cent of GDP in 1973, but it then fell back and has been about half this level in recent years. Investment in the rest of Western Europe increased in relation to GDP up to 1978 but has since declined, while that in Canada and the other developed countries has shown no significant growth in relation to GDP, their share of British overseas investment having fallen by more than a half over the last 20 years. Investment in the rest of the world increased in relation to GDP in the first half of the 1970s but then fell back, with some recovery in 1980 and 1981.

In 1981 net direct investment overseas amounted to £5,100 million, 49 per cent more than in 1980 (see Table 1). The most important single item in the increase was a rise of over £770 million in the amount due to British parent companies on inter-company account. Net acquisition of share and loan capital of overseas companies was 25 per cent more than in 1980. The other major component of direct investment, profits retained overseas, was over one-quarter higher than in 1980. Investment in branches was higher than its low level of 1980 but still less than half the 1979 figure. The fact that 1981 was the second full year without exchange controls (see p 162, 1980) does not seem to have had any major effect on the pattern of financing direct investment overseas, most of which continues to be financed by retained profits or borrowing in foreign currency. There has also been little change in the proportion of profits retained by overseas subsidiaries and associates; two-thirds was retained in 1981, much the same as in earlier years.

In 1981 the United States was, as usual, the most important single market for outward investment, accounting for 47 per cent of the total, compared with 23 per cent for the Commonwealth, 18 per cent for the developing countries (many of which are in the Commonwealth), 16 per cent for the European Community and 2 per cent

Table 5

Net Earnings from Inward Direct Investment in Britain Analysed by Area

£ million

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Western Europe	**320·4**	**355·2**	**437·4**	**213·2**	**277·5**
European Community	200·5	231·5	266·2	135·8	113·6
Belgium and Luxembourg	40·5	55·8	30·8	32·7	38·0
Denmark	11·0	5·8	19·3	15·5	27·6
France	57·2	67·4	75·3	51·9	15·9
Federal Republic of Germany	33·5	56·6	63·5	19·6	67·2
Irish Republic	15·2	21·3	20·0	12·2	6·4
Italy	1·3	−6·2	−3·1	−15·5	9·7
Netherlands	41·7	30·7	60·5	19·4	−51·2
European Free Trade Area	117·9	121·2	165·8	72·7	158·8
Austria	1·3	2·9	1·7	0·8	0·9
Finland	1·9	2·9	6·3	4·1	−5·9
Norway	−5·4	−6·0	1·0	11·8	4·7
Portugal	0·8	0·8	2·4	1·0	–
Sweden	34·4	25·5	31·6	20·8	3·7
Switzerland	84·7	95·0	122·3	34·2	155·4
Other Western Europe	2·0	2·5	5·4	4·8	5·1
North America	**1,044·6**	**1,144·1**	**1,568·2**	**1,498·7**	**1,539·1**
Canada	108·1	116·6	130·7	89·4	90·8
United States	936·5	1,027·5	1,437·5	1,409·3	1,448·3
Other developed countries	**53·6**	**64·4**	**101·4**	**187·8**	**169·4**
Australia	17·8	14·7	25·7	52·4	18·5
Japan	22·6	27·2	39·5	103·2	119·2
New Zealand	1·8	2·1	0·4	1·8	3·1
South Africa	11·5	20·4	35·8	30·4	28·6
Rest of the world	**13·4**	**−36·9**	**42·0**	**88·9**	**89·5**
Asia	20·0	7·2	28·0	31·2	52·6
Caribbean, Central and South America	−11·7	−48·8	13·6	55·6	24·3
Other	5·1	4·7	0·4	2·1	12·6
World	**1,432·0**	**1,526·7**	**2,149·1**	**1,988·6**	**2,075·5**

for the oil-exporting countries. Within the Community, the Netherlands was the most important market (following two years of net disinvestment), closely followed by the Federal Republic of Germany (see Table 2).

Net Earnings from Outward Direct Investment

Net earnings from outward direct investment by British companies have risen sharply over the last decade although a large part of the increase has been due to inflation and a fall in the sterling exchange rate. Net earnings in 1981 amounted to £3,600 million, 23 per cent more than in 1980 (see Table 1). The main component – 88 per cent – was the share of after-tax profits of overseas subsidiaries and associates due to British companies. Interest received by British companies from these overseas concerns accounted for 2 per cent and net profits of overseas branches for 9 per cent.

Since earnings accrue from investments made over a very long period, the pattern of areas from which they come can differ considerably from that of recent investment trends. Commonwealth countries accounted for the highest proportion of overseas earnings – 34 per cent – followed by the developing countries with 33 per cent, the United States with 22 per cent, the European Community with 12 per cent (over half of which was attributable to the Federal Republic of Germany and the Irish Republic) and the oil-exporting countries with 5 per cent (see Table 3).

Inward Net Direct Investment

Net inward direct investment as a proportion of GDP has risen over the last 20 years although not as fast as the corresponding ratio for outward investment. It averaged about 0·5 per cent of GDP in the first half of the 1960s and rose between 1968 and 1974, when it reached a peak of just over 1 per cent. It then fell sharply in 1975 as a result of the recession in Britain and overseas. Investment recovered in the second half of the 1970s and by 1980 the ratio was similar to that in 1974.

Inward investment in Britain is determined mainly by the level of outward investment from the United States. This was severely distorted in 1981 by loans to United States parent companies

from their British subsidiaries and associates and so net inward investment amounted to only £900 million compared with nearly £2,600 million in 1980 (see Table 1).

Largely as a result of this distortion, the United States share of inward investment fell from 67 per cent in 1980 to only 5 per cent in 1981. Investment from the Federal Republic of Germany accounted for 17 per cent of the total but the proportion for the European Community as a whole (traditionally the second main source after the United States) was only 7 per cent, largely because of net disinvestment by Belgium and Luxembourg. The share of Switzerland was 14 per cent and that of Japan 25 per cent. Most of the Japanese investment is in distribution although investment in manufacturing is beginning to expand. Other Asian countries accounted for 22 per cent (see Table 4).

Net Earnings from Inward Direct Investment

Net earnings by other countries from inward direct investment in Britain in 1981 amounted to over £2,000 million (see Table 1). Although the increase over 1980 was less than £90 million the rise was much greater after excluding the effects of Britain's double taxation agreement with the United States (which had the effect of raising earnings due to the United States in 1980). The increase in earnings was achieved at a time of falling economic activity in Britain.

The United States continued in top position in 1981, with 70 per cent of earnings. Switzerland accounted for 7 per cent, Japan for 6 per cent and the European Community (despite substantial net losses in the case of the Netherlands) for 5 per cent (see Table 5).

Industrial Awards

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology and the Design Council Awards for 1983 were announced recently.

Firms in the general machinery and equipment industry and in other manufacturing and in service industries featured prominently among the 90 winners of awards for export achievement. Among the 20 winners of awards for technology, most worked in the areas of electronics and chemicals.

Among the 29 winners of Design Council Awards were Westland Helicopters, with its Westland 30 series helicopter, which this year (exceptionally) shared Britain's highest design award, the Duke of Edinburgh's Designer's Prize, with the Dandy clip, from Wonderclip.

Most of the achievements for which awards were made are described below. Full details of all awards are available from The Queen's Awards Office, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG and The Design Council, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SU.

QUEEN'S AWARDS

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology, published on 21 April (the Queen's birthday), are made on the advice of a committee comprising representatives of industry and commerce, including the trade unions and civil servants. Instituted in 1965 and revised in 1975 (see pp 443-4, 1975), the awards can be made both to British firms and to subsidiaries of overseas companies. The recipients represent a wide range of industrial and commercial activity and size of company, and include firms from every region of Britain. They hold their awards for five years, in which time they may display the award emblem in various ways.

The 110 winners of export and technology awards this year were chosen from a total of 985 applicants, 94 fewer than last year, and including 20 firms already holding awards.

Export Achievement

Export achievement awards are made for 'a substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of the applicant unit's operations.'

Aerospace Equipment: Winners included the Aircraft Group of British Aerospace (an award winner in 1982), which develops and manufactures civil and military aircraft and also provides defence support services in Saudi Arabia and Oman; Lovaux, which specialises in supplying components and spares and provides overhaul facilities, mainly for aircraft operated by overseas countries, sales being made to 14 nations in the Middle and Far East, Africa, South America and Asia; and Marconi Avionics, which manufactures advanced avionic systems for civil and military aircraft, including automatic flight control, radio navigation and communication systems, exporting worldwide but mainly to the United States.

General Machinery and Equipment: General engineering firms winning awards included Acrow, which manufactures an extensive range of materials, handling and construction equipment and sells (particularly to the oil, petrochemical, agricultural, defence and shipping industries in more than 100 countries including newly established markets in Peru and the People's Republic of China) such products as Cole's mobile cranes, Adamson containers and Bentall's silos; Dale Electric of Great Britain, which manufactures diesel and gas turbine generating equipment with associated switchgear and accessories, and exports to over 40 countries; Darlington and Simpson Rolling Mills, which produces rolled special profiles in steel for export to the United States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Mexico and many other parts of the world; the Reinforcement/Cem-FIL Division of Fibreglass, the only British manufacturer of alkali-resistant glass fibre used for reinforcing cement, which, in addition to direct exports to 32 countries, has an international network of licensees; Hosking Equipment, which designs and supplies agricultural equipment and exports to the Middle East, where it has recently established new markets; the

Hughes Tool Division of Hughes Tool Company (which also gained awards in 1980 and 1982), which produces rock-drilling bits used in the oil and gas exploration and production industries, and exports mainly to Europe, the Middle East and Africa; the Scammell Motors Plant of Leyland Vehicles, which makes special-purpose and military vehicles with a wide range of applications (fire-crash tenders, recovery and commercial vehicles and tank transporters) and exports to the Middle and Far East, South Africa and New Zealand.

Chemical and Related Products: Award winners in this sector included R. P. Adam, a small firm of 120 employees, manufacturing and distributing hygiene chemicals, water treatment and laundry chemicals; Allied Colloids, a manufacturer of speciality chemicals for use in a wide range of industries, with world-wide exports and, since 1968, seven overseas subsidiaries; May and Baker (which also gained an award for export in 1977 and awards for technology in 1968, 1974 and 1982), which produces and markets a wide range of pharmaceutical, agricultural and horticultural chemicals and fine chemicals, exporting world-wide with overseas marketing undertaken by 18 subsidiary companies and branches (the company both manufactures and licenses abroad).

Other Manufacturing: Other manufacturing companies which won awards included Chubb Fire Vehicles, which makes specialist firefighting vehicles used in civil and military airports, refineries and petrochemical plants, and has marketing areas mainly in the Middle and Far East and Africa; Coin Controls, which makes coin-handling components for many amusement and vending machines and exports to 26 countries; Compton Webb Group Marketing, which markets uniform clothing and ancillary items and exports to more than 50 countries; Curtis (Wool) Holdings, a small merchanting organisation supplying processed wools for such items as carpets and fine clothes, exporting to the United States, Western Europe, the Far East and Australasia; Thomas De La Rue (which won awards in 1966, 1971, 1977 and 1978), the world's largest printers of banknotes and travellers cheques, agent for the Royal Mint for coin sales world-wide and technical adviser to overseas government agencies; Gaeltec, operating from Skye, in Scotland, which produces miniature pressure transducers with particular application to neurosurgery and cardiology, products marketed throughout the developed world; Harrison Brothers (Sanitary Engineers), producers of steel flushing cisterns which resist damage by vandals, with sales throughout the Middle East, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Burma and France; McCorquodale Machine Systems, which makes automated cheque printers and exports throughout the United States, France, the Netherlands and South Africa; and Hugh Steeper (Roehampton), which exports artificial limbs and other medical aids and visits overseas hospitals to set up clinics.

Consulting Engineers: Award winners in this sector included A. and P. Appledore International, which provides management and consultancy for shipyards and operates in 50 countries; Architects Co-Partnership Incorporated, which provides a comprehensive service covering design, structural and civil engineering, carrying out work mainly in the Middle East, Nigeria, the West Indies and Tunisia; Biwater Treatment, which designs and installs public water treatment and purification plant; Costain International (award winners in 1971, 1976 and 1978) which operates in the Middle East and has opened new markets in Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Nigeria; Davy McKee (Sheffield) (award winners in 1979), which deals in metalworks plants including all types of rolling mills; Glantre Engineering, makers of power supply systems, sub-stations, air conditioning and fire protection, exporting chiefly to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria; Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners, architectural and engineering consultants, which exports its services to the Middle and Far East and the West Indies; the Submarine Systems Division of STC Communications, which deals in submarine telecommunication systems with contracts that have included linking Malaysia and India, Europe and the United States, Greece and Cyprus, Brazil and Senegal, and Australia and Canada; and United Medical Enterprises, which manages and equips hospitals, exporting its services to the Middle East, Nigeria, Botswana, the Far East and South America.

Other Services: Award winners in this sector included Airwork (which won an award in 1979), providers of skilled manpower for the maintenance of aircraft and vehicles and for the operation and maintenance of radar and communications systems, chiefly in the Middle and Far East and Africa; The Water Specialities and Services Business of Albright and Wilson, which is concerned with specialised products for general utility water treatment applications, especially the supply of chemicals for desalination plants; Exploration Consultants, which provides a wide range of technical and computer services to the oil industry, governments and banks around the world; Michael Gerson, which deals with removals of household goods and personal effects world-wide, especially in the United States and Canada, and has a growing market in Japan; Investment Insurance International (Managers), insurance brokers operating in North America, Europe and Australia; Lasgo Exports which exports records, cassettes, videotapes and music books; Metier Management Systems (an award winner in 1982), which produces miniature computer-based information facilities world-wide, its chief market being the United States; and Ocean Inchcape, which services the offshore oilfield industry in various parts of the world, with Nigeria its biggest market.

Food, Drink and Tobacco Industry: Award winners in this sector included the Export Division of Anglia Canners, which exports canned fruit and vegetables to 20 markets world-wide; Arthur Bell and Sons, Scotch whisky distillers, exporting to over 100 countries; Carreras Rothmans (award winners in 1977), manufacturers of cigarettes and tobacco products with two-thirds of overseas sales going to the Middle East; Crisp Maltings, which sells malt for the brewing and distilling

industry and supplies eight markets overseas; Eilers and Wheeler (UK), which trades in butter, cheese and milk powders, exporting to Europe, the West Indies and the Middle East; Express Dairy UK, a dairy company which supplies a wide spread of markets and has achieved notable success in sales of cheese to the United States; Guinness Overseas, which sells its brewed products to world markets outside Europe and also designs, constructs and provides technical services for breweries overseas; Pauls and Sandars, which manufactures malt for the brewing, distilling and food industries and has strong export markets in the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and Nigeria; and Rimark Soft Drinks, which manufactures squashes and cordials for the Middle East.

Electrical and Electronic Goods: Award winners in this sector included Amersham International (award winners for export in 1967, 1974 and 1979 and for technology in 1967 and 1970), which manufactures radioactive and related materials for use in medicine and exports to 132 countries; Badalex, which manufactures automatic machines for the assembly of various types of electrical lamps, exporting to the United States, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany; Carbolite Furnaces, which manufactures electrical resistance-heated furnaces for general laboratory research; Databit, a subsidiary of a United States company, which manufactures products for the telecommunications industry and exports to over 30 countries; Fabrikat Industries, which manufactures electrical power distribution equipment and exports to the Middle East, Africa and Hong Kong; Oxford Medical Systems, which manufactures electronic medical equipment and exports to 30 countries, including the United States and several European countries; and Petbow, which manufactures machines incorporating advanced microelectronics technology, and exports to 50 countries.

Technological Achievement

The awards in this category are made for 'a significant advance, leading to increased efficiency, in the application of technology to a production or development process in British industry or the production for sale of goods which incorporate new and advanced technological qualities'.

The Royal Signals and Radar Establishment of the Ministry of Defence received two awards, one for work on infra-red detector development (jointly with the Electro-Optics Division of Mullard) and one for work on developing high resolution X-ray detector crystals used in body scanners and brain scanners (jointly with Hilger Analytical). In the former case the detectors are used in thermal imaging systems for military purposes, medical diagnosis and, in industry, for fault diagnosis, process control and energy conservation. In the latter case the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment developed a process for the growth of zinc tungstate crystals and this was scaled up by Hilger Analytical for industrial purposes. The crystals have improved considerably the resolution of the pictures obtained by the scanners.

Two more awards were on a joint basis. The Rentokil Group and the Department of Organic Chemistry at Liverpool University received an award for developing a new low-cost method of producing arsenic acid (a major constituent of the timber preservatives sold by Rentokil). The original experiments were carried out at Liverpool University and then scaled up for commercial production by Rentokil. The British Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Broadcasting Authority won a joint award for their pioneering work on teletext (the basic concept of which has been adopted world-wide), a system of transmitting alphanumeric and simple graphical information to television receivers fitted with special adaptors; viewers are able to select 'pages' of information for display on the television screen.

A wide range of industries was represented in the other awards. Two of the awards were for aerospace-related activities: Marconi Avionics for developing airborne systems for processing underwater acoustics data, enabling aircraft to detect, locate, classify and track submarines from the sounds they make (this has given the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy the most advanced submarine detection equipment in the world); and Rediffusion Simulation for its 'wide-angle infinity display equipment' used in presenting computer-generated scenes to the occupants of a flight simulator cockpit, providing a much higher level of realism than previous display techniques. Other awards for products connected with communications went to Quantel for equipment allowing live manipulation of television pictures and to Polytechnic Marine for developing a small low-cost transit satellite receiver for navigation and positioning.

Technology awards were also made to Albright and Wilson for technological innovation in the manufacture of phosphine (a major ingredient in chemicals used in making textiles flame-resistant); Flymo for devising a complete system of robot assembly for the manufacture of lawn mowers and for integrated facilities for assembling and testing the mowers; Formflo for the design and manufacture of cold metal roll-forming machines, which produce bearings and other similar components of a better quality, more quickly and with far less waste of raw materials than previous processes; Imperial Chemical Industries for technological innovation in the large-scale production by continuous fermentation of single-cell protein ('PRUTEEN', a high-protein animal foodstuff); Logica VTS for its VTS 2200 word-processing system; Metal Castings (Worcester) for developing an automated, microprocessor-controlled robotised diecasting system; Perchem for technical innovation in the production of organophilic clay-gelling agents used in drilling muds (lubricators) for the oil industry; and Sterling Metals for a process for manufacturing compressor wheels (the major component of turbochargers).

DESIGN COUNCIL AWARDS

The Design Council announced on 9 May a total of 29 awards to British manufacturers under its 1983 awards scheme. In addition to the Duke of Edinburgh's Designer's Prize (awarded jointly to

two companies), there were six awards for engineering products, five for engineering components, nine for consumer and contract goods, four for medical equipment and three for the motor industry.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Designer's Prize for 1983 was awarded jointly to Wonderclip for the Dandy clip (an 'outstanding example of British innovation'), the uses of which vary from acting as a temporary vice to opening jam jars, and Westland Helicopters for its Westland 30 Series helicopter which has twin Rolls-Royce Gem 60 engines and incorporates several new engineering features such as a simple airframe structure using a minimum number of parts, greatly reducing manufacturing time and cost.

Other Engineering Products

The Pegasus turbofan engine, from Rolls-Royce, can be used to provide lift for vertical take-off and landing as well as thrust for conventional flight. Operational simplicity and reliability have contributed to its success including its selection for use by the United States Marines and, in Britain, as the power plant for the new Harrier GR Mk 5. The Monarch 120 is British Telecom's private automatic branch exchange offering small and medium-sized businesses flexible, efficient and cost-effective telephone communications. It is a compact electronic business call-connect system designed to minimise time-wasting by, for example, directing incoming calls to other specified extensions and automatically re-dialling engaged numbers. Standard Telephones and Cables' STC 3000 Perfector teleprinter has an electronic message store which similarly allows repeat calls to be made automatically when lines are engaged. It can also send messages automatically at preset times and is therefore not restricted to the operator's working day or peak traffic hours. Wadkin Machine Tools has produced the V5-10 machining centre, in which microprocessor-based electronics enables cutting to be controlled from program memory, allowing fast and accurate contouring of intricate components with easy and rapid change from one cutting action to another. LancerBoss has produced the G Series frontlift truck, which can be driven as easily backwards as forwards since the driving seat and control console rotate through 180 degrees with no need for the driver to change position.

Engineering Components

APV Hall Products has produced the HallScrew single-screw compressor which has only three basic moving parts. Its service life expectancy before major overhaul is 40,000 hours compared with some 10,000 for reciprocating compressors. There are also substantial manufacturing advantages in the single-piece casing. Expandite has won an award for its Supercast water-stops (providing versatile waterproof jointing of concrete structures) for the construction industry, which can be installed easily on site. The RotaBolt load-monitored fastener prevents bolts from loosening or being incorrectly tightened, which could lead to failure under stress. Greenpar Connectors has produced Safety First test leads, silicone rubber test leads designed for use with laboratory test equipment. The company has also produced plugs that can be stacked into each other and permit several leads to be plugged into a single socket. Waterfield Valves has won an award for the VeeValv diaphragm valve which overcomes the chief disadvantage of the traditional valve, the loss of pressure that restricts flow.

Consumer and Contract Goods

Rabone Chesterman has produced the Multiview spirit level, the first to measure four angles with a single vial (liquid chamber) and can be used on angled structures and pipework. Bowens Sales and Service has produced the Quadmatic Pack electronic flash generator designed for the needs of professional photographers. The pack consists of a power unit onto which flash heads are fitted. Output may be increased by using the packs in combinations of two or four (hence the name Quadmatic). British Fly Reels has produced the DragonFly 60 fly-fishing reel, a lightweight reel made of carbon fibre that enables quick change between right- and left-hand operation. Papworth Industries has produced a range of travel goods, including suitcases, holdalls, writing cases, shoulder bags and drawstring bucket bags, conceived by Yuki, the internationally famous designer. All are hand worked in a supple leather. Sally Anderson (Ceramics) has won an award for its Midsummer tiles, a range of ten modular designs combining flexibility in colour and format. The House of Mayfair has won an award for its New Wave range of wallpapers and fabric, as has Millimetre for a range of greetings cards, wrapping papers, gift tags and bags. Loncraine Broxton and Partners has won an award for its Mindbender puzzles, designed to test both intelligence and dexterity.

Medical Equipment

Award winners in this category included Graseby Medical for its MS 16 portable syringe driver, which allows sufferers from certain conditions including post-operative pain and diabetes to benefit from continuous infusion of a drug at prescribed feed rates rather than regular injections. Diabetics will also be helped by the Hypo-Count II blood-glucose monitor, a microprocessor-controlled device which measures the blood-glucose level accurately and simply. Mecanaids has produced the Mecabed suspension bed, which fits over any hard-edged bed or domestic divan, for patients suffering from pressure sores. Resembling a hammock supported by two high-tensile steel roller poles, the bed can be raised into position without any strain for nurse or patient and can support a person of up to 20 stones (127 kilograms). Clement Clarke International has won an award for the Friedmann 2 visual field analyser, which helps in the diagnosis of glaucoma, the third major cause of blindness in England and Wales.

Motor Industry

The Ford Motor Company has won an award for the Sierra range of five-door family saloons and estate cars, in which weight has been reduced by a combination of sophisticated design and the use

of advanced lightweight materials. Leslie Hartridge has won an award for the 2500 diesel fuel pump test stand, which enables the volume and timing of fuel deliveries to each cylinder of a diesel engine from its fuel injection system to be precisely checked and adjusted. The Star Riser Booster seat, from Britax Excelsior, has also won an award. The seat overcomes the problem of children being too small to wear adult seat belts by raising the seat 3·5 inches (9 cm) on a firm, lightly cushioned base so that the belt is positioned correctly. Also commended in the motor industry category were a road tanker made by M. and G. Tankers which, among other innovations, contains separate seamless inner cells surrounded by a semi-rigid polyurethane foam, providing considerable impact resistance and protection from fire, and a multi-angle tool system by Bill Gornall, which overcomes the problem of reaching awkwardly placed nuts and bolts.

Coal and the Environment

The Government shares the widespread expectation that coal will continue to account for a substantial share of Britain's energy market into the foreseeable future, despite the uncertainty surrounding the level of future demand for energy. Creating the right conditions for the successful exploitation, commercially and environmentally, of Britain's indigenous coal reserves is therefore a major element of its energy policy. This is the context within which it has framed its response,[1] published as a White Paper on 11 May, to the report by the Commission on Energy and the Environment on coal and the environment.

The Government agrees with the Commission's report (see p 312, 1981) that a modern efficient coal industry, operated to high environmental standards, can make a major contribution to meeting Britain's energy needs without imposing unacceptable environmental costs. It accepts that spoil disposal, opencast extraction and subsidence damage pose the main environmental challenge, but agrees with the Commission that the problems are not insuperable. Positive steps to tackle them are being taken by the Government, the National Coal Board (NCB) and local authorities. The Government also confirms its commitment to improved environmental standards in older coalfield areas and, in particular, its intention to renew the momentum for clearance and restoration there through the identification of a specific 'coalfield element' in the derelict land programme (see p 111). On these and other issues – such as the transport and use of coal (including air pollution) – it supports the determination of the coal industry to achieve steady progress towards competitiveness and viability, and the improved environmental standards now expected of all major industries.

The White Paper says that the Government and the NCB are grateful to the Commission for its authoritative contribution in furthering understanding of the interaction in the coal industry of the needs of energy and the environment. Since 1974 successive Governments have supported investment by the NCB in the development of modern, efficient production capacity. New high-productivity mines can be designed to high environmental standards and, as the Commission recognised, modernisation affords the best prospect of striking an acceptable balance between meeting Britain's need for coal and safeguarding the environment.

Spoil Disposal, Opencast Mining and Subsidence

The White Paper devotes particular attention to the issues on which the Commission expressed important qualifications – spoil disposal, opencast mining and subsidence – and on which the Government is determined to take firm action.

The Government is making £2·5 million available over three years to help to finance a small number of experimental spoil-disposal schemes, and has initiated a major exercise in the Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire coalfield, designed to evaluate the main options and to establish a new framework within which decisions on spoil disposal can be taken. It is also reviewing the dual tendering procedures (involving the contractor and the Department of Transport) established to promote the use of more waste materials (mainly colliery waste) in highway construction projects. It proposes to bring the NCB's opencast mining into the normal minerals planning system so that local authorities can achieve a closer integration of land use planning and mining, restoration and aftercare. Agreement has been reached on improved publicity about possible subsidence, more comprehensive information about people's rights to compensation, and an addition to the NCB's code of practice on mining subsidence to provide compensation for residual loss in property value due to tilt or similar structural distortion; and an independent review of the working of the subsidence repair and compensation system has been set up.

Scientific Procedures on Living Animals

Government proposals for strengthening the law concerning scientific procedures on living animals were published by the Home Office in a White Paper on 12 May.[1] The proposed new legislation would replace the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 and ensure better protection for animals used in scientific procedures, while permitting work essential in the interests of man and animals to continue.

[1] *Coal and the Environment.* The Government's response to the Commission on Energy and the Environment's report on 'Coal and the Environment'. Cmnd 8877, HMSO, £3·60. ISBN 0 10 188770 1.

[1] *Scientific Procedures on Living Animals.* Cmnd 8883. HMSO, £3·60. ISBN 0 10 188830 9.

While recognising that experiments on living animals have to continue in the foreseeable future to provide the scientific knowledge needed in order to protect man, animals and the environment, the White Paper nevertheless emphasises that animals must only be used in strictly defined circumstances and where there are no reasonable alternatives. They must have the best possible care and attention before and during their period in the laboratory, be spared all avoidable pain or distress, and in no circumstances suffer severe and enduring pain; moreover, the smallest practicable number of animals must be used.

The legislation would in due course enable the Government to ratify a new Council of Europe Convention, nearing completion, for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The Convention would allow member states to adopt stricter controls than those contained within it, and the proposals in the White Paper are also stricter in a number of respects, particularly in relation to the 'pain condition', to which no exception will be permitted in Britain. There would also be special measures to control the testing of cosmetics upon animals and to ensure that stray dogs and cats are not used in laboratories.

WHITE PAPER

Background

When the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 was passed, animals were used mainly in surgical experiments, but during the last 100 years the biological sciences have developed considerably and the great majority of the experiments now controlled under the Act involve no operative procedure more severe than a simple inoculation or the taking of a blood sample. In response to the report of a Royal Commission in 1912 and that of a departmental committee in 1965, the controls have been adapted to meet needs which could not have been foreseen in 1876, and also because successive Home Secretaries have interpreted the requirements of the legislation widely, and the scientific community has readily co-operated with them. However, the White Paper says that a modern system is now needed to protect animals used in the circumstances of today and to serve the purpose of the controls more effectively. The duty of the Government to safeguard the community from avoidable harm – and indeed tragedies – and to enable science to continue to make progress in saving life and alleviating suffering obliges it to permit the use of animals in research and testing to continue.

Major Changes

The White Paper proposes ten major changes to be embodied in the new legislation:

1 A new statutory Animal Procedures Committee (composed of a chairman and not more than 12 other members, two-thirds of whom would be drawn from medicine, veterinary science and other biological sciences) would replace the existing non-statutory Advisory Committee on Animal Experiments. The Committee, which would report annually to Parliament, would have wide powers to advise on questions of policy and procedure, including the development of alternatives to animals in experiments. It would also advise on applications referred to it by the Home Secretary as giving rise to special concern and on all applications for the testing of cosmetics.

2 While the present legislation covers only 'experiments', the new legislation would be based on 'procedures', and would thus also protect animals used for such work as breeding for physical defects, the production of antisera and interference with the embryo or foetus.

3 The new controls would extend to establishments which breed and supply animals to laboratories, and in most cases purpose-bred animals for scientific procedures would have to be obtained from registered suppliers.

4 Statutory protection would be given to animals at all times while they were in a laboratory and not just during an experiment, as at present. The advice of a veterinary surgeon would have to be available.

5 Every proposed project using animals would require specific authorisation involving rigorous examination in order to satisfy certain criteria – for example, that the work was justifiable, that no satisfactory alternative to the use of animals could be found, that the minimum possible number was used and that the least possible suffering was caused.

6 Anaesthetics and analgesics would have to be used wherever possible.

7 Surgeons seeking to acquire manual skill in microsurgery would be allowed to do so only with the animal under anaesthetic and with a requirement to use analgesia wherever necessary.

8 The use of animals for instructional purposes would be permitted in the form of demonstrations for a range of approved professional training courses, but not in the education of schoolchildren or others at the same educational level.

9 Animals would be allowed to survive after a procedure if fit to do so.

10 The Inspectorate, which has had a vital part to play in raising standards and spreading the best practice since its creation in 1876, would be strengthened and have new and enhanced duties in operating the controls over project and personal licences, laboratories and breeding and supplying establishments.

The White Paper points out that the Government is determined to maintain and improve the legal protection of animals which has been applied in Britain for more than a century, and is very glad to see agreement in Europe on common minimum standards. This would not only provide protection to animals throughout Europe, but also help to ensure that work the Government would not allow in Britain was not simply undertaken abroad. Britain's large pharmaceutical industry employs 67,500 people and makes a big contribution to the balance of payments; in devising new controls, the White Paper says that it is important not to put industry unnecessarily at risk.

Shorter Notes

FINANCE ACT 1983

The Finance Act 1983 received the Royal Assent on 13 May. Following the announcement that a general election would take place on 9 June (see p 183), certain changes were made to the original Bill published on 30 March. The changes concerned thresholds for higher rates of income tax, the starting point for the investment income surcharge, the limit for mortgage interest relief, the profits limits for corporation tax and the thresholds and bands for capital transfer tax (see pp 132-5 for the relevant parts of the Budget statement).

With regard to the first three, because new Pay-As-You-Earn arrangements came into force shortly after the Budget and cannot be changed quickly, provisions were added to the Bill to enable the Inland Revenue, employers and employees to proceed for the time being on the basis of the figures announced in the Budget, with further guidance to be given after the election.

The profits limits for corporation tax remain at £90,000 and £225,000 instead of being raised to £100,000 and £500,000 respectively. The thresholds and bands for capital transfer tax have not been increased as previously announced but, for transfers made from 6 April 1983 only, are raised merely in accordance with the rise in the retail prices index during 1982.

Source: HM Treasury press notice, 12.5.83.

NATIONAL AUDIT ACT

The National Audit Act, introduced into Parliament as a private member's Bill by Mr Norman St John-Stevas, received the Royal Assent on 13 May.

The Act (see p 186), aimed at strengthening parliamentary control and supervision of public expenditure, establishes a National Audit Office to replace the Exchequer and Audit Department and lays down the principle that the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General (who, as head of the National Audit Office, would carry out investigations on economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money) be made by the House of Commons rather than by the Crown on the advice of the Prime Minister. Specifically, the Comptroller would be appointed by the House on a motion moved by the Prime Minister with the agreement of the chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts. The Act also provides for the setting up of a House of Commons Public Accounts Commission which would include the chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts.

Speaking in the House of Lords on 12 May during the second reading of the Bill (originally entitled the Parliamentary Control of Expenditure (Reform) Bill), Lord Renton explained that it had the support of the official most affected – the Comptroller and Auditor General. He also told the House that the Bill had been rendered uncontroversial by the removal during the Commons committee stage of those parts which had sought to bring nationalised industries and government-owned public companies into the Comptroller's scope. He assured the House that the Government would remain responsible for broad issues of policy and that there would be no overlap between its work and that of the Comptroller, who was concerned merely with the manner of implementation of financial decisions.

Source: *Hansard* (*HL*), Vol 442, No 94, cols 683-90.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Among changes in certain government departments following the formation of a new Government (see p183/4) the Department of Trade and Industry, under the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Cecil Parkinson, is responsible for the functions of the former Department of Industry and the commercial relations and trade functions of the former Department of Trade. The regulatory functions of the Department of Trade, including responsibility for consumer affairs, company law, companies registration, competition policy, the insolvency service, insurance and the Patents Office, together with certain regulatory responsibilities for telecommunications and radio frequencies, have been brought together into a single office, reporting to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, Mr Alex Fletcher, under the direction of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Responsibility for the work of the civil aviation and shipping divisions of the present Department of Trade have been assigned to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Sources: Prime Minister's Office press notice, 11.6.83; Department of Trade and Industry press notice, 16.6.83.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Two recent developments in Britain's renewable energy programme are the announcement of the assessment of the viability of a private sector Severn Barrage and a project for drilling another geothermal hot-water borehole.

The Government and the Severn Tidal Power Group (comprising Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, GEC Power Engineering, Taylor Woodrow Construction, Northern Engineering Industries and Balfour Beatty) are to fund jointly a two-year assessment, costing £500,000, of the technical and financial viability of a private sector Severn Barrage. Announcing this in the House of Commons on 12 May, the then Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Nigel Lawson, said that government

funding would be given on the understanding that there was no government commitment beyond the two-year study (see also p 271, 1981). A Severn Barrage, he said, could make a significant contribution to Britain's future electricity needs and offer a valuable complement to coal-fired and nuclear power stations. Private sector involvement at this early stage would ensure that the commercial implications of the project were realistically evaluated. Details of the proposed study would be worked out over the next few months, while local authorities and other interested parties would be consulted.

The Government's approval for a £2 million project to drill an exploratory borehole to seek natural sources of hot water in the Grimsby/Cleethorpes area of South Humberside was announced by Mr Lawson at a press conference on 1 June. Mr Lawson said that the borehole would be drilled to a depth of about 1,520 m (5,000 ft) to establish the existence and extent of a geothermal aquifer believed to lie below the surface rock. The project was part of the Department of Energy's renewable energy research and development programme and could begin in early 1984, subject to planning approval from the local authorities concerned – with whom a choice from several potential sites would be made. Drilling would take about two months to complete, with flow rate and temperature tests taking another month. Work on the project would be managed by the Department's Energy Technology Support Unit, which would receive specialist geological advice from the Institute of Geological Sciences.

The proposed borehole would be the third to be drilled to establish the size of Britain's geothermal energy resources. The first two holes were drilled at Marchwood, near Southampton, in 1980 (see pp 172-3, 1980) and at Larne in Northern Ireland in 1981. The Larne hole was found to be dry, but favourable results at Marchwood led to a further demonstration borehole in Southampton where test results are currently being evaluated. Preliminary results from the Southampton borehole, where naturally heated water has been drawn from nearly 1,830 m (6,000 ft) below ground, are encouraging. (Underground geothermal aquifers occur in permeable rocks where, over long periods, water accumulates and is heated naturally by rocks deep below the surface. The Department of Energy's geothermal aquifer programme aims to determine the potential contribution to Britain's energy supplies from this particular resource.)

Sources: *Hansard*, Vol 42, No 114, written answers, cols 381-2; Department of Energy press notice, 1.6.83.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION

The new headquarters of the International Maritime Organisation, a £46 million building in London on the south bank of the Thames, was officially opened by the Queen on 17 May. Formerly known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, it is the only United Nations specialised agency with headquarters in Britain. There are 124 member states and one associate member including all the major maritime nations. Its principal objectives are the improvement of maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. Since 1959 it has secured the adoption of a number of international conventions covering a wide range of subjects including the safety of life at sea (in 1960 and 1974), load lines on ships (1966), tonnage measurement (1969), the prevention of collisions (1972), maritime satellites (1976), fishing vessel safety (1977), seafarer training (1978) and search and rescue (1979). In addition, the conventions are supported by over 500 recommendations and codes which can be used by individual governments in drawing up their domestic measures. The Organisation also has an extensive technical assistance programme operating in some 80 countries with the aim of enabling governments to improve their maritime administration and shipping operations in general and thereby helping them to meet the Organisation's high safety and technical standards.

As one of the world's leading maritime nations, Britain plays a major role in all aspects of the Organisation's activities. It has always been a member of the council (the Organisation's executive body) and has served on every committee and sub-committee. Britain has ratified all the Organisation's major conventions and protocols, and was the first country to have ratified all the conventions concerned with maritime safety and prevention of pollution.

Source: *British business*, 20.5.83.

NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING PROGRAMME

The Government has announced the beginning of a national remote sensing programme costing £14 million and involving the establishment of a National Remote Sensing Programme Board and the appointment of an industry-based team to co-ordinate the programme. Remote sensing is carried out by instruments, mounted on satellites, that obtain information about the earth's surface by measuring reflected radiation or radar, and then process it by computer to build up multi-colour pictures.

The programme will complement Britain's participation in international remote sensing programmes, particularly those of the European Space Agency. Britain's main industrial involvement in the first satellite of the Agency's new programme – the ERS-1 for oceanographic and coastal observations, due to be launched in 1987 – will be the main payload, an active microwave device to be built by a European consortium led by GEC-Marconi. ERS-1 will also carry the British Along Track Scanning Radiometer which will produce accurate measurements of sea surface temperatures.

Announcing the programme at a press conference in London on 3 May, the Minister for

Information Technology, Mr Kenneth Baker, said that he was convinced that a national co-ordinated effort was needed if the Government was to help to create a new industry with considerable export potential. Britain's maritime tradition made it particularly well placed to develop experimental and commercial applications for the ERS-1 satellite. The Programme Board would provide a forum for the co-ordination of remote sensing activities and for the development of a national strategy. It would consist of representatives from organisations involved in remote sensing in both the public and private sectors; it would meet two or three times a year and report to the United Kingdom Space Consultative Committee (consisting of representatives of government and industry). The Board would also provide policy guidance for the National Remote Sensing Centre at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough (Hampshire). The programme would involve industry, the Department of Industry, the Science and Engineering Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Meteorological Office and the Royal Aircraft Establishment. It would meet national requirements for facilities for data acquisition, processing and dissemination, applied research on the interpretation and use of data (mainly for forecasting purposes), and the development of pilot projects. The co-ordinating team would be led by Mr Geoffrey Pardoe, Managing Director of General Technology Systems, who would be responsible for ensuring that the activities within the programme were organised to benefit industry, based on a proper foundation of fundamental research work.

Mr Baker emphasised that remote sensing was a challenging new field of space applications which he believed would lead to substantial commercial opportunities in a rapidly growing world market. Though Britain was particularly adept at developing the software needed to transform basic data from remote sensing satellites into valuable products, much would have to be done if it were to keep up with the powerful range of techniques now available, especially in all-weather radar remote sensing. Looking further ahead, Britain needed to ensure guaranteed continuing access to remote sensing data worldwide – primarily through participation in the European Space Agency's oceanographic and, later, land programmes. The Government would be encouraging private firms to take over and build on the services available on a commercial basis at the National Remote Sensing Centre as soon as particular segments of the market were ripe for commercial exploitation – for example, in land surveys for mineral detection, crop and forest monitoring or water resource location, or for the routeing of ships.

Source: Department of Industry press notice, 3.5.83.

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Commonwealth Development Corporation. Report and Accounts 1982 (see p 190). HMSO, £4·50. ISBN 0 903799 15 4.

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations. Chairman's Review and Accounts 1982 (see p 191). Available free from the Crown Agents, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD.

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